

THEATRICAL NEWS AND GOSSIP

New York Busy
With Premieres
For Past Week

By A. H. BALLARD.

New York, Oct. 19.
Two top-notchers and a string of
aspiring openings this week.The opening of the new Stuy-
vesant Theater Thursday night
and the beginning of "Madam But-
terfly's" second year of grand opera in
English, at the Garden Theater Monday
evening, are two events of importance
to art and to everybody.As to the other openings—those possi-
bly ephemeral, possibly long-lived
launchings of theatrical ventures—to
wit, Edward Peple's "The Silver Girl,"
at Wallack's Monday, and Charles
Klein's "The Step-Sister," at the Gar-
rick the same date, you have seen them
both and know all about them. The
first is certainly very, very good, and
the second is positively horrid. Porgie
the fervent prayer, here offered by an
earnest and tired soul: May the play-
wrights of today, and tomorrow, and
the next day, and the day after,
through some kind ministrations of di-
vine guidance, be constrained to follow
in the footsteps of this miraculously
suave and effective Peple, who has gone
straight to human nature in his beauti-
fully simple play, "The Silver Girl," and
told a wholesome, true, strong story
that is full of hope and sweetness and
joy! How he gathered force of charac-
ter enough to throw aside the clap-net,
the gush, the traditional crowd-drawing
tricks, the mysterious meanings of in-
volved lines, the slang of the street, and
nearly every objectionable feature that
has besmirched the surface of many
other new plays that have been brought
out this season, is more than I can tell.
But that Mr. Peple has accomplished an
immensely creditable and humanizing
play, without any fuss or feathers,
is a fact. This play is not perfect,
of course. But compared with some of
the other polyglot monstrosities with
which we have been confronted, it seems
almost as good as getting home again
after a trip to Philadelphia."Step-Sister" a Misstep.
By the same token, and in the same
breath, the reflection may be made that
the less said about "The Step-Sister,"
the better for its sponsor and creator,
Charles Klein. It has been aptly called
a mis-step-sister, and its bad drawing
and total absence of gripping power,
removes it from the ranks of theatrical
productions that call for serious consid-
eration on the ground of dramatic quali-
ties. It has no true dramatic quality
whatever. It is put together apparently
by a neophyte. It is an attempt gone
wrong. Something is the matter, or
Mr. Klein had some prop hereafter in
his playwright work that is now miss-
ing.Coming to "Madam Butterfly," there
is an unusual circumstance to record.
I was present at the beginning last
year, and also attended the opening this
season. The quality of the audience
was higher this year than last, al-
though numerically the assemblage was,
of course, about the same (capacity of
the house in both instances). The en-
thusiasm was greater this year, and a
far more intimate and eagerly appre-
ciative sense of well-nigh loving warmth
was manifested. In fact, there is no
doubt that this stirring tragedy in grand
music is more secure in the public heart
and mind after it has been played and
sung all over America than it was be-
fore the hearing."The Merry Widow" Next Week.
Monday at the New Amsterdam comes
the most spectacular and generally
curiosity-provoking event of the young
season—"The Merry Widow," the lightopera which has entertained all con-
tinental Europe for four consecutive
years. For a month the theater orches-
tras have been playing the music—
notably the "Siren" waltz—the waltz
that kills, which has been the cause of
one husband shooting a leading man
and himself already. Ethel Jackson
has the chance of her life in the title
role.There is nothing with which to com-
pare David Belasco's feat of collecting
and precipitating human curiosity, ex-
cept the phenomenon of a thunderstorm.
Months, months, perhaps a year, or
longer, he ponders, plans, works, pre-
pares in silence, preserving a mysteri-
ous secrecy that plagues everybody, al-
though they know his game. Then he
strikes—hunts sparingly. Then something
palpable begins to be shown. Witness
the building of the new Stuyvesant
Theater, and how the newspapers have,
each and every one, succumbed to the
bids for publicity. The erudite David
of the Theater, the Wizard of the Stage
Production, has had a million dollars'
worth of advertising for less than a
penny. He has merely been erecting the
most modern, comfortable, artistic play-
house that his busy, competent mind
could devise. Now it is ready and has
been opened. David Warfield, who has
climbed to the very top as a character
actor, is chosen as the appropriate star
to help inaugurate the new playhouse.
Belasco, at the opening, "The Play,"
"A Grand Army Man," is a necessary com-
ponent part of the long-awaited theatri-
cal event, not a negligible part, and one
which must be reviewed at length
later on, but the entirety of the event
should be better first. Belasco may not
be a creative genius in so far as the
actual writing of the plays he produces
is concerned, but his phenomenal acumen
in the selection of material where-
ever he finds it, is supreme and unques-
tioned.HICKMAN WROTH
AT SOPH JOKERobert Hickman, director of the Be-
lasco Theater School of Acting, has had
more or less experience with farce com-
edy during his career on the stage, but
the sophomore class of George Washing-
ton University showed him a new thing
about the game yesterday afternoon. As
Mr. Hickman is a mild, good-natured
man, no deaths resulted from the oc-
currence.He was standing in the main hall of
the university, where there is displayed
one of his business cards setting forth
that Robert Hickman makes a specialty
of teaching young men how to become
great orators. Suddenly, without the
slightest warning, a tall, raw-boned
youth from the country, standing quite
near Mr. Hickman, began to talk and
to shout, somewhat as follows:
"Who is this man, Hickman, anyway?
What does he know about phrasing and
gestures and grouping of ideas? I
wouldn't let him teach me how to say
good-bye!""I am Mr. Hickman," said Hickman,
with a tremor of indignation in his
voice.
"I know you are," said the tall youth.
Then a burst of laughter from an ad-
joining lecture room disclosed the pres-
ence of ten sophomores, who explained
they had made the freshman youth get
off his trade as a part of his hazel
experience. Even at that, Hickman was
not particularly mortified.
"If you'll excuse me," said the tall,
raw-boned lad, "I have something to
tell you. I want to take lessons from
you."And with that perfect peace reigned.
JOHN MASON TO BE STAR.
John Mason will soon blossom forth
as a star on his own account, and the
vehicle which will be used to start him
on his pathway will be none other than
the latest play from the pen of Aug-
ustus Thomas. The title of the play
and date of its production are still
shrouded in mystery, but rehearsals will
be called early next month, which
means that the play and the new play
will undoubtedly be among the novel-
ties in Santa Claus' bag.

Coming Attractions

"The Christian Pilgrim," with Hen-
rietta Crosman as Christian, comes to
the New National next week, and will
bring to Washington one of the really
big productions of the present season.
It requires five acts and eleven scenes to
present the spectacle, which reveals the
adventures of Christ in his journey
from the City of Destruction to the
Celestial City. A notable feature of this
production will be the costumes, which
were all designed by Prof. Leffler, of
the Royal Academy of Vienna, Austria.
There is a chorus and ballet of fifty.The attraction at the Columbia next
week will be Frank Daniels in his latest
comic opera success, "The Tattooed
Man," under the management of Charles
Dillingham.
Victor Herbert has written the music
and Harry B. Smith and A. N. C.
Fowler wrote the libretto. Mr. Daniels
plays the role of Omar Khayyam, Jr.,
charlatan weather prophet, astronomer,
and lineal descendant of the famous
writer of quatrains. His soubriquet of
the Tattooed Man he derives from the
presence on his neck of a magic tattoo
mark in the form of a scarabeus, or
Persian sacred beetle.Henry Woodruff, in the college play
success, "Brown of Harvard," will play
his last Washington engagement at the
Belasco, commencing Monday night,
October 28. Mr. Woodruff will be seen
in his original role of Tom Brown, the
varsity athlete, and will be assisted by
a supporting company, which, in the
main, is the same which was seen here
last season."Carmen," the offering of W. D. Fitz-
gerald's Kathryn Purnell company, at the
Majestic Theater next week, offers many
opportunities for a display of Miss Pur-
nell's emotional abilities. As the seduc-
tive little Spanish girl Miss Purnell has
a suitable part.Chase's next week will regale its pa-
trons with Master Gabriel, the original
Buster Brown, and his company, in the
new Buster vaudeville sketch called
"Auntie's Visit," in which George All,
the famous dog impersonator and crea-
tor of Buster's Tige, will be seen in the
part of Spike, the latest of Buster's can-
nine comrades."Eight Bells" will be presented at the
Academy for the week commencing Octo-
ber 28.There is no villain in Byrne Brothers'
rejuvenated "Eight Bells," but there is
plenty of fun, trick scenery, good music
and clever specialties.The great revolving ship scene, the
trick wagon, the hustling octopus, the
weird trunk, doors, chairs, and nume-
rous new features will be presented.A novel feature of the comedy, "The
Road to Yesterday," is that each mem-
ber of the company is required two
characters—one of the present period in
which the comedy begins and the other
a similar character transferred back to
the seventeenth century. "The Road to
Yesterday" will shortly be seen at the
Belasco, here.OFFERINGS OF THE WEEK
AT WASHINGTON THEATERS

(Continued from Second Page.)

frolics. The vaudeville features are
headed by Snitz Moore and company in a
comedy pathetic one-act play, "A Self-
made Man."

Concert at Gayety Tonight.

The usual popular entertainment pro-
vided by the Gayety concert at the
Gayety each Sunday night will be con-
tinued today. The subjects selected for
tonight include "Jones Returns From
the Club," "Finish of Bridget McKee,"
"Animated Poster," "How Old Is Ann?"
"Visit to the Spiritualist," "Hindoo
Folk," "Phenomenal Contortionist,"
"The Ex-Convict," "Naval Sham Bat-
tle," "Rock of Ages," "Camel Caravan,"
Pekin," and "Scenes in the Orient."
Illustrated songs will be rendered by
talented vocalists.

Belasco Concert Tonight.

The Sunday night concert at the
Belasco are proving very popular, and
for tonight an interesting and instru-
mental program of "motion pictures that
talk" will be presented. Special atten-
tion is paid to the weekly selection of
novel travel views and tonight one will
be taken a tour through Egypt. Other
entertaining subjects will be shown.
Several of the latest popular ballads
will be rendered, illustrated by colored
slides.

Shepard's Moving Pictures Tonight.

Shepard's Moving Pictures will offer
a program of new features in moving
pictures and illustrated songs at the
Academy tonight, presenting scenes in
foreign lands, glimpses of historic places
and the passing of current events. Al
Bothner, the popular baritone, will ap-
pear in the illustrated songs.

Majestic Sunday Concert.

Another extensive list of life motion
pictures will be shown at W. D. Fitz-
gerald's vaudeville concert at the Ma-
jestic tonight. Several vaudeville acts
of merit have been arranged and the
bill is an attractive one. New illus-
trated songs will be sung by Fred C.
Reese.

Notes of the Stage.

Louis Mann will be among the vaude-
ville stars of the early season, appear-
ing in a condensed version of "All On
Account of Eliza." Later he will be
starred by William A. Brady.William Norris will be the principal
comedian in "Tom Jones," the new
English musical comedy which Henry
W. Savage will soon produce here.
Louise Gunning is to be the prima
donna and Gertrude Quinlan, whose
eccentric work in "The College Widow"
is well remembered, is also to be a
member of the cast."The Great Divide" will probably re-
main in New York the entire season. A
road tour had been arranged to begin
October 28, but the continued success
(Continued on Eighth Page.)NEW
NATIONALThe only theater in Washington offering ex-
clusive American and foreign stars of
the first rank.
Week Beginning Tomorrow Night at 8:15
Matinees Wed. and Sat. at 2:15.
Farewell Tour in Peter Pan
CHARLES FROHMAN
Presents

MAUDE ADAMS

In Her Famous Performance of

PETER PAN

By J. M. Barrie, Author of "The Little
Minister."
NOTE In view of the great demand for
seats and out of consideration to all
patrons, telephone orders will be suspended
during Miss Adams' engagement.

THE VERDICT

OF THE PHILADELPHIA PRESS
"RANKS WITH 'PARSIFAL'."—"North
American."
"A POWERFUL APPEAL."—Public Ledger.

HENRIETTA CROSMAN

IN
THE CHRISTIAN
PILGRIM"ACHIEVES THE TRIUMPH OF HER
CAREER"—Record.
"The Christian Pilgrim" Comes to the
New National Next Week.
Matinees Wednesday and Saturday.
Seat Sale Starts This Thursday.

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TELEPHOTOGRAPHS IN COLOR AND
MOTION PICTURESTomorrow "OLD MEXICO"
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Reserved Seats, 50c, 75c, and \$1.

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Burnside and Comstock (Inc.) offer

The High Tide of Musical Comedy

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FLORABook and Lyrics by
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JOS. W. HERBERT.
Music by GUSTAVE KIRKER.

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FRANK RUSHWORTH SAM EDWARDS
THE DANCING SUNBEAMS
And Those Stunning Casino Girls in Original Company of 80

To-Night

Animated Picture Concert
An Entirely New Series of Views
PICTURES THAT TALK
Subjects Unapproached Anywhere

Next Week. Seats on Sale Thursday.

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HENRY WOODRUFF
IN THE COLLEGE PLAY SUCCESS,
BROWN OF HARVARD.

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New York City.)Occupying the Entire Sixth Floor of the BELASCO THEATRE
REHEARSALS ON THE BELASCO STAGE
PUBLIC PERFORMANCES
TAKE ELEVATOR TO THE SIXTH FLOORPOPULAR
WILYCEUMDIRECTION: EMPIRE CIRCUIT COMPANY
Matinee Daily
WEEK COMMENCING TO-MORROW MATINEE.

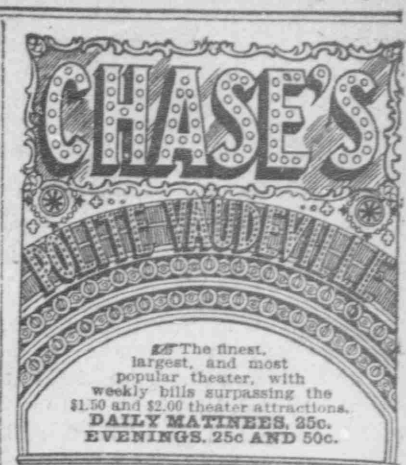
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The Laughing Hit of
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Everybody's Favorite
Pretty Girls
Funny Comedians
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Next Week--Williams IdealsNew Day Line to
OLD POINT,
JAMESTOWN and
NORFOLKAT REDUCED RATES.
FARE 1.50, ROUND TRIP, \$1.50, one way;
\$4.00 to Richmond and return.
Leave Washington, Riley's wharf, 6th st.
sw., at 8 a. m., every Saturday, Tuesday,
and Thursday. Leave Campbell's wharf,
Norfolk, every Monday, Wednesday and Fri-
day at 7:45 a. m. All classes of tickets
reading via Norfolk & Washington Steamboat
Co., C. & O., R. F. & P., and N. & W. Ry.,
between Washington, Exposition, and Nor-
folk, in either direction, will be accepted for
transportation by this company.
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J. B. CLINEDINIST, G. P. A., Norfolk....FOR...
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A set.....
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PAUL CONCHAS,
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Stupendous feats of Super-
normal Strength and
Dexterity.THE BANKS-BREAZEALE DUO.
Dainty Colonial Musical Novelty.The Jolly Jokesters,
ELIZABETH M. MURRAY,
In her own vintage of humor.Robert's Menagerie Actors.
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WINSOR MCCAY,
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Famous Cartoonist of the
N. Y. Herald and Evening
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Creator of "Dream of the
Rabbit Flies," "Little Nemo,"
"Sammy Snuggles," etc.
"Hungry Henrietta," etc.THE AMERICAN VITAGRAPH
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BRIEL, the Original "Buster
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VENS & Co., SARTY DOR-
SELL, DORSEY & RUSSELL,
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E. D. Stair, Pres. F. B. Weston, Mgr.Daily Matinee, 2:15-15c & 25c
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Presents the
KATHRYN
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CO.Hoyt's Famous
Comedy Drama
A MIDNIGHT
BELLVaudeville Between the Acts
Reception Thursday Afternoon

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CONCERT--New Pictures, New
Faces, New Acts.Norfolk & Washington
Steamboat Co.Jamestown
Exposition,POTOMAC RIVER,
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HAMPTON ROADS,
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8 a. m. - - - - 6:30 p. m.Land passengers at Exposition
Grounds.
MODERN STEEL STEAMERS.
HANDSOMELY EQUIPPED.
For rates, state rooms, etc.,
apply at Company's General
Ticket Office, Colorado Building,
14th and G sts. sw., or at wharf,
foot of 7th st.Norfolk & Washington
Steamboat Co.

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HUGE GORGE--TOWERING CLIFFS.
Three Great Waterfalls, Swirling Whirl-
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Popular Price
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ACADEMYALL THIS WEEK
THE KILROY-BRITTON NEW MELODRAMA
WITH MUSIC

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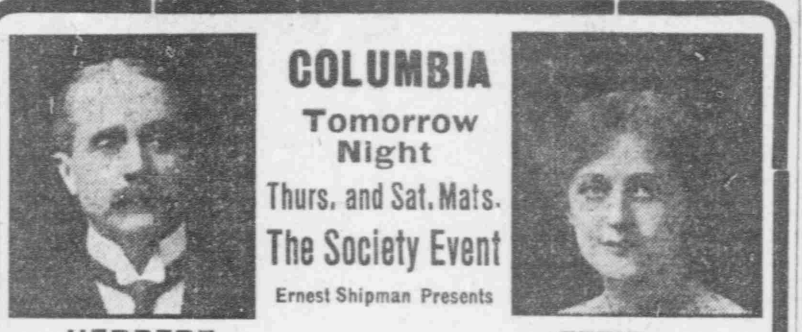
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TONIGHTSpecial Program of All New Features. AL BOTHNER, Popular Bar-
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